

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

A person has two sides in working of her days, good and bad. For at glance, it seems like something usual happened through the people's life. It will be different if it views from the people who get deep traumatic on their life. They have to try hard to face the tragedy itself and erase as quickly as hope for the new life that will make up on the new days.

Everyone needs a new day as a change and challenge within the life. It is the process of maturity. None can make sure of their life, it is only the estimation. As the human, they only try and hope for several bad things passing on their life. It works well if the people believe in possible things derived from the god's power and themselves. The time talks to the people who wait for the result of the tragedy they faced.

For another different reason, the time is not the resolution for them. They do not patient while doing effort to strive to make the condition better. But it is better in solving of forgetting the traumatic were through in their life. Sometimes it is spoken but sometimes is not. The case such unspeakable tragedy is ever done for some people. It is hurt, but it can be solved. Susanne Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire* tries to show that condition.

Susanne Bier is a movie director having unique feature in her works. She tries to be different. The difference drives her into comfortable in creating every works she had. The works of Bier are interesting to see with different view. She starts with *Open Heart* (2002) a devastating automobile accident smashes the future of a newly engaged

couple. Then, two years after she is directing *Brother* (2004) a seasoned soldier endures a horrific captivity that comes close to destroying him and those he loves.

She wins her an audience award at Sundance in 2005 because of *Brother*. The popular work is the Oscar-nominated *After the Wedding*, family secrets wreak havoc in the lives of former lovers who have been apart for 20 years. It is very interesting movie. Susanne Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire* is the first English language movie. She chooses Halle Berry and Benicio Del Toro to join in her work of the movie *Things We Lost in the Fire*. (http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/25/movies/25gold.html?_r=1)

Works usually leave a critical or adornment. Some people say it is good but there are many critical follow in Susanne Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire*. One of them is Josh Rosenblatt of *The Austin Chronicle*. He said that it is a perfect drama. Halle Berry and Benecio Del Toro's acting are good. The other critic is derived from Stephen Holden of *The New York Times*. He said the film is the kind of awards-seeking Hollywood movie that bends over backward to prove that serious American movies can hold their own with the best films from overseas. They do not, of course, except in very rare instances. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Things_We_Lost_in_the_Fire)

Susanne Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire* is a drama movie. It tells about Audrey Burke (Halle Berry) and her warm and loving husband Brian (David Duchovny). They have been happily married 11 years. They have a 10 year old daughter named Harper (Alexis Llewellyn) and a 6 year old son named Dory (Micah Berry). Jerry Sunborne (Benicio del Toro) is a heroin addict who has been Brian's close friend since childhood.

Audrey gets tragic news delivered from the local police. The news is that Brian has been killed in an attempt to defend a woman who was being beaten by her husband. On the day of the funeral, Audrey realizes that she has forgotten to inform Jerry of Brian's death. Her brother Neal (Omar Benson Miller) delivers the message to Jerry and takes him to the funeral.

Audrey invites Jerry to move into the room near to their garage, which he does. During his stay at the Burke home Jerry struggles to remain drug-free and also becomes very fond of Harper and Dory. The relationship between Jerry and Audrey is fragile and complicated. Jerry helps Audrey cope in many ways, including lying with her in bed to help her sleep. But Audrey, upset and confused, takes out her grief at Brian's death on Jerry. She becomes angry when Jerry helps Dory overcome his fear of submerging his head in the pool, as this had been something Brian had tried to do for years.

Eventually her rudeness to him causes Jerry to move out and relapse with heroin. Audrey and Neal rescue and rehabilitate him and he agrees to admit himself to a specialized clinic. At first Harper, who has come to love Jerry, is angry that he is leaving, but after he leaves her a heartfelt note she forgives him. At the close of the film Jerry is still struggling with his addiction but seems to be well on his way to recovery. He leaves flowers on Audrey's doorstep with a note that reads, "Accept the good".

After analyzing the film's case, the writer would like to analyze the major character, Audrey Burke. She is a wise and strong woman who plays important in this case. She shows the psychological phenomenon by his character and characterization. In this study, the writer will encourage herself to give a title

**“STRUGGLE TO FORGET THE UNSPEAKABLE TRAGEDY IN
SUSANNE BIER’S *THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE*: AN INDIVIDUAL
PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”.**

B. Literature Review

The movie, *Things We Lost in Fire*, is very interesting to be analyzed. The theme brought makes the people aware of situation which is people ever face through the same case, tragedy. There is no researcher uses this movie as the object, but the writer finds several researchers use the same perspective, individual psychological approach.

The writer chooses two researchers with the similar perspective, Individual Psychological Approach. They are Mariana Sri Utami with “The Struggle for freedom of Rolland Emmerick’s *The Patriot*: An Individual Psychological Approach and Dwi Purwaningrum with “A Struggle for love in F. Scoot Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*: An individual Psychological Approach. Both are the students of Muhamadiyah University of Surakarta of 2004 and 2001 year. They investigate about the major character within the object.

The first researcher, Mariana Sri Utami, concerns with the striving of the major character, Benjamin Martin, to gain the freedom in their own land. She uses movie itself by watching to get depth understands. There are many obstacles have to be faced by him to reach his goal. The personal adventure plays as the important role there. He tries to get freedom and manages his desire to the personal revenge because of his son’s death. He acts as a hero to get freedom in his land.

The second ones, Dwi Purwaningrum, has investigated the influence of love on the life of the major character. She finds that it means to create good behavior, generous and good appearance. She uses movie itself by watching to get depth understanding dealing with using individual psychological approach. The writer also concerns with the major character that proves that love makes life to be different. Love is heart encouragement. Sometimes it makes strong but sometimes makes weak. The major character gets the power of love in solving his problem.

In this paper, the writer will take the individual psychological approach to reveal the struggle for finding the truth behind the unexplainable moment. Here Audrey Burke (Halle Berry) is the main character who wants to make his case is clear. She tries to live with her children and forgets everything dealing with her memory with her husband.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is how is the struggle to forget the unspeakable tragedy of Audrey Burke is reflected in Susanne Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire*?

D. Research Limitation

This study is limited to the struggle to forget the tragedy of Audrey Burke and how the struggle influences her psychology development in Susan Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire*. This study uses individual psychology perspective. It is as a means of analysis with consideration that Audrey Burke's psychological development is influenced by the struggle to forget the unspeakable tragedy which is happened to her. It is suitable with the problem that taken by the writer.

E. Objectives of the Study

This research paper aims to analyze the structural element of Susan Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire* based on an individual psychological perspective.

F. Benefits of the Study

The result of the study is highly expected to give benefit as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give a high contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly to those who are interested in Susan Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researcher or reader in analyzing the movie Susan Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire* into different perspectives. In hope, the other researchers are able to create the better research.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer analyzes the Susan Bier's *Things We Lost in the Fire*, using qualitative method. There are four points that is taken into account in this research method:

1. Type of the Study

This research applies qualitative research. This research is interested in studying the human behavior and the social world inhabited by human beings. The measurements of qualitative research shows how often or how many people behave in a certain way but they do not adequately answer the question "why?" It will attempt to increase the reader's understanding of why things are the way they are in our social world and why people act the way they do.

2. Object of the Study

The writer takes *Things We Lost in the Fire* as the object of the study.

The movie is directed by Susanne Bier released in March 8, 2007. The duration is 118 minutes.

3. Data and the Data Resource

The data of this study is the sentences relevant with the focus of study. In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of the data. The data resources within this research are:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data is the film itself *Things We Lost in Fire* by Susan Bier.

The data are taken from the dialogue, scene, setting and all of the statement related to the problem.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other sources, which relates to the primary data such as website about the film and another data related to this research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The researcher uses the following ways to collect the data, they are:

a. Observation

The data is taken by watching the movie of *Things We Lost in Fire* in order to understand about the movie.

b. Library Research

The data are collected from the book that related to the topic.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses individual psychological approach to analyze the movie.

Individual psychological approach is applied by these two ways:

- a. Analyzing the structural element of the movie.
- b. Analyzing the struggle for freedom of the main character using descriptive analyzing based on underlying theories.

H. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, theoretical approach, and research method and paper organization. The second chapter deals with underlying theory, including the notion of individual psychology and basic assumption of individual psychology, structural of the film and theoretical application. The third chapter is the structural analysis of the film, including narrative and technical elements. The fourth chapter is dealing with analysis individual psychology. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.